

DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

POLICY: Prehospital transport personnel are not to be involved with decontamination procedures. However, it is their responsibility to assure that decontamination procedures are performed correctly and completely prior to transport.

Key BLS Points	ALS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victims will be instructed to disrobe and to go through gross decontamination as soon as possible. 2. All personal items are bagged and tagged. If there is a question to whether an exposure took place or not, keys and wallets may be separated out and placed in a separate bag. 3. A high-volume/low pressure water shall be used for decontamination. Nozzle pressure should be between 60 and 90 psi. 4. Water run-off should be controlled. However, decontamination of live victims takes priority over controlling water run-off. 5. Decontamination for responders shall have a separate decontamination corridor. 6. Preference to the Ladder Pipe Decontamination System (LPDS) or the Emergency Decontamination Corridor System (EDCS). 7. Cold weather decontamination issues should be considered when present (When contamination is less certain and time permits), decontaminate victims using the following guidelines: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When the ambient temperature is 65 degrees F or above, disrobing decontamination, and post-decontamination processing can proceed outdoors. b. When the ambient temperature is greater than 35 degrees F, but less than 65 degrees F, disrobing and water decontamination can proceed outdoors, but after decontaminating the victims, they should be moved into a heated shelter. c. When the ambient temperature is 35 degrees F or below, disrobing water decontamination, and post-decontamination processing should take place in heated shelters. d. Asymptomatic victims may need to be decontaminated for psychological impact. 	

